104-10322-10004

DCI

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Executive Registry
76-5608/3

JFK ACT
05-04-99
RELEASE

TO: OLC
FROM DCI

RE: Kennedy Investigation--- BY House Special Comm

I note that Richardson Preyer of N.Car. is to be head of the Kennedy part.... I know him very well-indeed he is one of my closest friends in the House- if it would be useful to chat with him taking you with mre I will be glad to do this before I leave CIA.

GB 11-28

DCI/GB/28 Nov. 1976
Orig - Addressee w/att
1 - DCI w/orig of att
1 - ER w/att

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL
1999

ER

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Executive Registry
76-5608/2

OLC#76-3423

10 November 1976

Recd 0/DCI 24 Nov —

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Richard Sprague, Chief Counsel, House Select Committee on Assassinations

REFERENCE: Memorandum for the Record, 27 October 1976 (OLC 76-3094)

1. In follow up with the concept embodied in referent memorandum and in an effort to obtain further agreement on principles and further delineation of upcoming requirements, I made arrangements to meet with Richard Sprague. Mr. Richard Feeney, his Executive Assistant, sat in. Scott Breckinridge, Deputy Inspector General, accompanied me to the meeting.

2. I opened by explaining Mr. Breckinridge's role and background and our interest in getting a better appreciation of the type and depth of support the Committee would need from us to facilitate their inquiry. It was emphasized that such mutual sizing of our respective requirements would enable us to posture ourselves to work efficiently and effectively together. Sprague, as he had previously, appreciated the sincerity of our interests to be cooperative and the importance of getting off on the right foot.

a. Security - Sprague is in full agreement that the Committee needs a full-time professional security officer. I said the sooner the better in order to work out the minimum security requirements of the Director in light of his statutory responsibilities for sources and methods. I told him we had specific guidelines in mind and wanted to reach agreement as soon as possible but the last word I had received was that the Committee was behind in processing its personnel security clearances. Feeney is to follow-up. I also mentioned that we would want security agreements with the staff, which was acceptable.

b. Public Statements - Noting that the TV cameras had been filming Sprague prior to our meeting, I said one of the underpinnings for smooth cooperation between us would be strong discipline against leaks and public statements which could lead to press whipsawing between the Agency and the Committee. I said for our part we would not feel it appropriate to comment on the substantive aspects of the investigation.

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Sprague said he could not guarantee what the members would do but as far as he was concerned, and inferentially for the entire staff as well, there would be absolutely no public statements of the type which would detract from the professional investigation he intended to run.

c. Organization - Sprague plans on two task forces, each composed of 15 attorneys and 25 investigators augmented by a general legal staff. One of the task forces will concentrate on the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the other on Martin Luther King, Jr. The Kennedy task force leader will be Robert Tannenbaum, Chief Deputy Counsel of the Committee and a former assistant district attorney in New York City, who has handled a number of Mafia cases. Tannenbaum will be one of our key contacts on that staff and we had a short introductory meeting with him. There will also be a polygraphs and stress evaluation unit. He will have a document control unit for receipting of documents, separating them for forwarding to the separate task forces, cross-referencing, and research. The committee will also use computers. The task force leader for the King assassination will be Robert Lehner.

d. Documents and Interviews - Sprague repeated his earlier statement that he is not interested in collecting documents. I said this would enhance the security of our entire operation and invited him to Headquarters to size our collection learn how we index and handle documents so he could determine how many personnel he needed to assign for their review. He was taken by this idea. I said it was our hope that not all 40 on the Kennedy task force would need access to this material and, of course, the earlier we had a feel on this the better; it would aid in our setting up of suitable arrangements at our Headquarters building. It was agreed that we would have a session early next week and arrangements were made for Tuesday, 16 November, at 2:00 p.m. It was indicated that we would also have to make special arrangements for interviews, an area extremely important to Sprague. Sprague bristled somewhat and I asked that we defer this for now but explained that our people were bound by security agreements to the Director and in releasing them from that obligation in connection with the investigations we had a legitimate right to make arrangements to assure that sensitive information unrelated to these lines of inquiry were not disclosed (this is probably going to be one of our most difficult areas). Mr. Breckinridge elaborated on this point as it relates to documents.

e. General Attitude - Sprague continued to display a very positive attitude towards our problems, but at the same time there is no question that he intends to run as complete an investigation as possible, recognizing that in the process he will have to run down perhaps many blind alleys. His view is that this is the only way to make the effort worthwhile at all.

f. Action -

(1) There is some concern over the possibility that documents in which they are interested may be destroyed. I allayed Sprague's concern on that point and have asked Hal Bean to draft a suitable letter to Chairman Downing as well as an employee notice. It is extremely important to do this before the document destruction notice appears in the Federal Register because that notice refers only to S. Res. 21 documents and not the needs of the Committee.

(2) Make arrangements for a meeting at Headquarters which will involve Sprague, Feeney, and Donovan Gay, Director of Research for the Committee.

(3) Pull together all Agency material on King and Lee Harvey Oswald (Sprague believes we probably have small holdings in this area and it is a priority task for the Committee).

Lyle L. Miller
Deputy Legislative Counsel

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1 - DCI
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OLC:LLM:ndl (23 Nov 1976)

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Executive Registry
76-5608/1

OLC 76-3094
27 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Relationships with House Select Committee on Assassinations

1. This proposes a course of action to undertake with the Select Committee.

2. Discussion

a. In looking to the road ahead, which may well eventually prove bumpy for reasons beyond our control, it is absolutely imperative that we fortify ourselves with the Committee so that they have the most positive attitude towards our desire to be cooperative. The simplest way to do this is to put ourselves in their shoes, anticipating what we can do for them to ease their work.

b. Whatever merits there are to a passive course (waiting for specific requests), it is much less likely to create the positive attitude which can be of such significance in the long run.

c. Although we can't anticipate the Committee's complete line of inquiry, certain lines can be, and if we do, and facilitate their work as a result, we will have earned their respect and proved our willingness to cooperate. More importantly, we will have created a climate conducive to their objective viewing of problems which will eventually arise. Finally, and practically, any other approach will only feed their apprehension over our real willingness to cooperate.

3. Proposal

a. Inventory - Provide the Committee an inventory of the kinds of material we may have on hand and in which we may safely presume they have an interest, e.g., collections on John Kennedy and Martin Luther King, material made available to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, Agency responses to related Freedom of Information requests, and related IG and other conclusionary reports. (This inventory should be sized for them, how big, and recommendations

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on how to approach its review.)

b. Material - Offer the Committee copies of those collections which do not present a security problem.

c. Briefings - Offer introductory background briefings on lines of inquiry concerning (a) above, as well as other areas where it could be helpful to them and could also help to place events and developments in perspective, e.g., the general purpose of our past involvement with anti-Castro groups.

With the preceding in hand, with suggestions on the size of the job (e.g., the number of man-hours required to review the material and recommendations on how to get into it, etc.), and with the offer of introductory briefings on our collections and some of the central issues, we should be in the strongest possible position for exacting from the Committee the prerequisite quid pro quos on security and other matters in which we have strong equities.

4. The credibility of our effort depends upon assurance that those in the Agency working in this area have full access to all relevant information. We must not operate on less than a full and complete informational base. It is requested that the Working Group established under the chairmanship of Scott Breckinridge, Deputy Inspector General, seek to satisfy on an expeditious basis the requirement set forth in paragraph 3 above.

Lyle L. Miller
Deputy Legislative Counsel

Distribution:
1 - DCI
1 - DDCI
1 - ER
1 - Scott Breckinridge
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1 - DDO
1 - OLC Subject
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OLC:LLM:ndl (27 October 1976)

Nov 24 1 35 PM '76 ER